unit, bio-fertilizer production and vermiculture hatcheries. Farmers also receive subsidy on purchase of various agricultural equipments, including hand tools, bullock drawn/power-driven implements, sprinkler and drip irrigation equipments, tractors, power tillers etc. Under the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS), small and marginal farmers receive subsidy to the extent of 10% of the premium, at present.

It is also worth mentioning here that in order to make the Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) scheme more beneficial to the farmers by catering to their investment credit requirements, the NABARD revised the KCC scheme in August, 2004 to cover term loans for agriculture and allied activities. Keeping in view the role of animal husbandry and fishery sectors in improving income levels of farmers, particularly for landless, small and marginal farmers, special attention is being paid to animal diseases control, livestock breed improvement and development, fodder development, dairy and poultry development, and fisheries development.

Cows and stray cattle

1806. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to mechanized farming in Punjab, male calves in large number have become useless and are roaming stray in Punjab;

(b) whether the Government of Punjab has sought permission from Government to export these stray cattle to the neighbouring States where bullocks are used for farming;

(c) whether the permission has been granted and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the Government of Punjab have also sought permission from Government to export cows of cross breed to the neighbouring States and if so, the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (d) Due to mechanized farming in Punjab, the utility of male calves has dwindled. The Government of India has not received any request from Government of Punjab to grant permission to export the stray cattle including cows of cross breed to the neighbouring States.